

**Luciano Rocchi, *I Repertori Lessicali Turco-Ottomani di Giovan Battista Montalbano (1630 ca.)*, EUT Edizioni Università di Trieste, Trieste 2014, 230 pp, ISBN 978-88-8303-546-3.**

The so-called “transcription texts” are very important for all scholars dealing with various aspects of Ottoman Turkish, and especially so for those who research historical phonology and linguistics. Having been written by non-Ottoman Turkish speakers, mostly Europeans, these sources have an obvious advantage over the texts having been originally written in the Arabic script: they were written down in alphabets that could note all sounds of the Ottoman-Turkish language, especially the vowels. Since these works were often compiled as grammars and dictionaries, they record not only the pronunciation of Ottoman Turkish words but also their translation into European languages.

Of course, Turkologists aiming at synthesis based on such works do face some problems. One of them is the availability of the texts themselves. Since they were written between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries their few copies are presently being kept at various libraries and thus are not always easily accessible. Authors of the transcription texts were not native users of the Ottoman Turkish language, so they obviously used a specific spelling when transcribing the Ottoman words. Considering this, the significance of scholarly editions of the transcription texts is unquestionable.

Over the last few years Luciano Rocchi has published several books which are editions of the Ottoman Turkish transcription texts. The work presented here is the most recent publication in the series. The manuscript of Giovan Battista Montalbano's *Turcicae linguae per terminos latinus educta Syntaxis [...]* was written in Latin probably between 1625-1632. It consists of three main parts, namely: the grammar of the Ottoman Turkish, the Ottoman Turkish – Latin dictionary, and the collection of 144 proverbs that are alphabetically ordered and translated into Latin. The manuscript is kept at the National Library in Naples and until now, it has only been known to scholars from some articles about it written by Aldo Gallotta. Rocchi's work is the first edition of vocabulary recorded by Montalbano. Its main part – "Corpus lessicale turco" – is preceded by an introduction (pp. 7–12), a short description of Montalbano's graphemes (pp. 13–16), and some remarks on phonology/phonetics (pp. 17–24), morphology (pp. 24–28), and syntax (p. 28) of Ottoman Turkish recorded in Montalbano's work. Each entry in the vocabulary (pp. 43–215) begins with an Ottoman word in contemporary Turkish spelling. It is followed by Montalbano's original spelling, his Latin translation and the attestations in other Ottoman Turkish transcription texts, mainly Hieronymus Megiser's *Dictionarium Latino-Turcicum*, *Turco-Latinum* which served as a basis for Montalbano's grammar (cf. p. 10). However, Montalbano also referred to Meninski, Argenti, Ferraguto etc. Montalbano's words that differ from the literary Ottoman Turkish forms are listed in the last part of the book (pp. 291–230).

Marzanna Pomorska